

SITUATION REPORT NO. 3
INCIDENT NO. 2005-033
DATE: May 3, 2005 Time: 5:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER: Drought/Fire** - Abnormally dry to severe drought conditions exist across much of western North Dakota and will continue through the summer, based on forecasts by the National Weather Service (NWS). These conditions have resulted in numerous fire emergencies and water supply shortages across western North Dakota, particularly along the Missouri River system.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No change from previous reports.
3. **DAMAGES:** On May 1-2, the Bismarck Rural Firefighters battled a two square mile blaze in an area known as Kimball Bottoms that required aerial fire suppression assistance from the N.D. National Guard (NDNG) and ground support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, N.D. Game and Fish, Burleigh County Sheriff's Office and the Burleigh County Highway Department. On May 2, a NDNG Huey and Blackhawk helicopter were used to drop around 16,000 gallons of water to control the fire. Bismarck/Burleigh Combined Communications, Burleigh County Emergency Manager, U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Corps of Engineers and Burleigh County Officials also provided assistance.

FIRES: The State Operations Center (SOC) received approximately 62 fire reports, which have occurred between April 14 and May 3. The fires have ranged in size from one acre to more than 2,000 acres.

The following fires were reported to the SOC between April 14 and May 3:

| County | Number of Fires Reported | Damage Beyond Acreage | Mutual Aid Requested | Number of Fire Dept. Mutual Aid Responders |
|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Adams | 1 | Quonset/Shop | No | |

| County | Number of Fires Reported | Damage Beyond Acreage | Mutual Aid Requested | Number of Fire Dept. Mutual Aid Responders |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Barnes | 3 | None reported | No | |
| Burleigh | 1 | None reported | Yes | 1 |
| Bowman | 1 | Chopped hay | Yes | 2 |
| Cass | 7 | Trees and a structure | Yes | 2 3 3 3 1 1 1 |
| Dickey | 1 | None reported | No | |
| Grand Forks | 11 | None reported | Yes | 4 |
| Griggs | 3 | Hay bales, Quonset and old car | No | |
| Kidder | 2 | None reported | No | |
| LaMoure | 4 | CRP land | No | |
| McHenry | 4 | None reported | No | |
| McIntosh | 4 | None reported | No | |
| Pembina | 1 | Garage on farmstead | No | |
| Pierce | 1 | None reported | No | |
| Ransom | 3 | None reported | Yes | 2 1 1 |
| Renville | 1 | None reported | No | |
| Sargent | 1 | None reported | No | |
| Stutsman | 6 | None reported | No | |
| Towner | 1 | None reported | No | |
| Wells | 4 | None reported | No | |
| Williams | 2 | None reported | Yes | 1 2 |

4. **RESOURCES:**

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTION:** The Burleigh-Morton Chapter of the American Red Cross provided refreshments to firefighters battling the May 1-2 Kimball Bottoms fire.

6. **MAJOR ACTIONS:** **WATER SHORTAGES:** On April 14, 2005, the Three Affiliated Tribes Emergency Manager received notification that the pumps at

both intake facilities of the southeast segment of the White Shield Water Treatment Plant were not operating properly. On Monday, April 11, divers were sent to the scene and discovered both intake screens were under less than three feet of newly deposited silt since inspection on March 17, 2005. Remediation efforts took place Tuesday, April 12. Efforts were resumed the following day and divers discovered the entire area had re-silted. Efforts to clear the intake screens were not successful due to high winds and rough wave action. Winds continued through Thursday, April 14, prohibiting any meaningful work. Silt continued to come into areas previously cleaned. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been called to assist. The USACE will do all National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements for the site, and Fort Berthold Rural Water (FBRW) will assist. Divers will re-attempt to clean intake screen areas and install a four foot flanged riser on each intake to allow for further extensions, if needed. With risers, elevation of intake structure would be at 1,787 ft. mean sea level (msl). Current lake level is 1,806.36 msl. FBRW will locate a standby pump if intakes remain inoperable. A water storage tank was filled prior to cleaning of the screens but levels are now low. With continued outside disturbances, there is a possible emergency situation that would impact White Shield, a community of 720 people.

On April 20, 2005, the SOC received notification from the McLean County Emergency Manager that the boil order for Garrison was lifted.

On April 20, 2005, the SOC received a copy of Sioux County's drought disaster declaration due to lack of moisture.

On May 2, the SOC received a disaster declaration from Burleigh County in reference to the fire at Kimball Bottoms.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The 59th Legislative Assembly recently passed an amendment to the North Dakota Disaster Act that allows local governments to issue a ban on open burning through an order or proclamation. Individuals who willfully violate the ban are guilty of an infraction under the new law, which goes into effect August 1, 2005.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director